

**FEMALE LEADER AS SUI GENERIS REFLECTED IN *IRON LADY* MOVIE**

**(2012) DIRECTED BY PHYLLIDA LLOYD:**

**A FEMINIST APPROACH**



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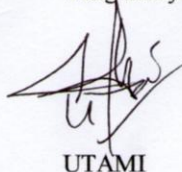
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A FEMINIST APPROACH**

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***ABSTRACT***

*The object of the study is a movie Iron Lady directed by Phyllida Lloyd. The study is to reveal how female leader as sui generis is reflected in Iron Lady directed by Phyllida Lloyd published in 2012. The objective of the study is to analyze the structural elements in the movie and to analyze female leader as sui generis as leader of the movie based on feminist approach. The researcher employs the descriptive qualitative research as a type of the research. The data sources divided into two, namely primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is the events of the movie and script of Iron Lady and the secondary data source is biography of character. The method of collecting data is documentation. The technique of analyzing data is descriptive. The result of the study is as follows: First, based on the structural analysis, Phyllida Lloyd delivers a moral message that a woman as leader is a unique person on her own kind. Women have equal opportunity to achieve their goals of life in all aspects. Second, based on the feminist analysis, Phyllida Lloyd reflects that women have to strive equal opportunity to be a leader and equal treatment in society and politic. Women as leader are extraordinary.*

***Keywords:*** Female leader as Sui Generis, Iron Lady, Feminist approach.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In Social life, the leader in every aspect is dominated by men. It means that women position is under the men in many aspects. Basically, women and men have the equal right and obligation since they were born in this world. As human being they have the same opportunity to do anything. They will live together to cover and to support each other in order to achieve their life goal. Unfortunately, in the real life the society makes different paradigm about women and men in which men have more absolute authority over women. This fact makes up gender differentiation. With all the considering, the men have power and ideas and are more logical than women. People think that women have no intelligent and credibility as leader in organizations or political association.

Organization leadership was once the sole province of men which those characteristics and traits (such as intelligence, dominate, height ,and so forth) the differentiate leaders from non-leaders. According to Kanter (in Fairhurst, 2007: viii) states that “Organizational leadership was considered the sole province of men until women began to enter the workforce in large number in 1970s in other the low power position”

*Sui generis* is a Latin expression, literally meaning of its own kind or genus or unique in its characteristics. The expression is often used in analytic philosophy to indicate an idea, an entity, or a reality which cannot be included in a wider concept. *Sui generis* is expressions that indicate an idea, so female has same chances like men to release their opinion on social, economy or political aspect.

Literary work has a close relationship with human life. One of literary works is film. Film has the same position, as the major genres in textual studies, like poetry and novel. A film tells a real situation, or shows a story based on the problems of human life. Film becomes the first choice for the audience, because it gives some advantages. For example, by watching film, the audience can learn about problems of human life, get pleasure and also enhance vocabulary.

One of the famous movies of this year is *Iron lady* that was released at early 2012. The *Iron Lady* is a 2011 British biographical film based on the life of Margaret Thatcher, the longest serving Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of the 20th century. The film was directed by Phyllida Lloyd. Thatcher is portrayed primarily by Meryl Streep, in her formative and early political years, by Alexandra Roach. Thatcher's husband, Denis Thatcher, is portrayed by Jim Broadbent, and Thatcher's longest-serving cabinet member and eventual deputy, Geoffrey Howe, is portrayed by Anthony Head. The film met with mixed reviews, although Meryl Streep's performance was widely acclaimed, earning Best Actress awards at the Golden Globes, the BAFTAs and the Academy Award.

There are four reasons why the writer is interested in studying this movie; first is because it is the realistic movie based on the true story of the first female Prime Minister of U.K. Second is because this movie tells the history of U.K's female Prime Minister. Third is because attractive setting place and time. Fourth is because female leader that becomes the main issue of the film is reflected well.

Problem Statement of this research is “How is female leader as *sui generis* reflected in *Iron Lady* movie (2012) directed by Phyllida Lloyd?

Objective of the Study is to analyze female leader as *sui generis* reflected in *Iron Lady* movie (2012) on the script of movie based on a feminist approach and to describe *Iron Lady* movie based on structural elements of movie.

The *benefits* of the study are divided into two parts. The first is theoretical benefit; this research will become a reference to study literature, especially movie analysis using feminist approach, this research can give a contribution to English learning. The second is practical benefit; this research gives a deep understanding for the writer himself about the play based on feminist approach.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, the researcher uses the descriptive qualitative method. The writer analyzes the data from the written script or oral words from the *Iron Lady* movie using feminist approach.

The object of the study is female leader as sui generis reflected in *Iron Lady* (2012) directed by Phyllida Lloyd. It is analyzed by using a feminist approach.

In doing this study, the writer uses two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources. (1)The primary data source is *Iron Lady* movie ( 2012) directed Phyllida Lloyd (2)Secondary data sources are taken from feminist theory book and also *Iron Lady* movie review.

The methods of collecting data are documentation the picture and note taking, with the steps are: (1) Watching the original movie for several times, (2) Reading the movie script, (3) Determining the character that will be analyzed, (4) Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data source, (5) Classifying and determining the relevant data, (6) Browsing on the internet to search information that relates with movie, such as film's subtitles, identity, response of the public, etc.

The technique used to analyze the data in this movie is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of *Iron Lady* movie and feminist approach.

### **3. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the issue this study is reflected in Feminist approach. There are four basic principles of Feminist approach, namely women's position, women right, women's equal, women's participation and ego. This study tries to discuss them and correlate all of them. Margaret Thatcher in *Iron Lady* movie generally suggests the struggles of female leadership in society.

#### **a. Major principles of feminism**

##### **1) Women's Position**

Women's position in *Iron Lady* movie basically is subordinate. Their position is based on gender in society. In British family perspective, women should follow the decision of husband after marrying. After married, the rein of the household is husband so that women must have permission from their husband to contribute in public area in society. Margaret thinks if she has married, she will not be one of women should be.

Denis : Margaret, will you marry me. Well?

Margaret : Yes, yes!!

Denis : What ?

Margaret : I love u So much but....I will never be one of those women Denis, who stay silent and pretty on the arm of her husband or remote alone in kitchen doing the washing up for that matter. (IL page 28-29)

In marriage, most of women want to marry with men in higher status. It is not only to raise the status but also to get pride and satisfaction. But this condition is very helpful for a woman that is involved in political world. For running in parliament Margaret must have the same status with her rivals, because of a single grocer's daughter is not good enough to face them.

Denis : You shaved thousands of their majority. You did splendidly

Margaret : Not splendidly enough

Denis : Ah I see. Self-pity

Denis : No one is saying you don't need a safe seat. You deserve a safe seat. But it does not come unless you learn to play the game a little.

Margaret : What game?

Denis : You are a grocer's daughter.

Margaret : And proud of being

Denis : ... in their eyes. A grocer's daughter. But if you were to become the wife of a moderately successful businessman. You'd get to parliament, and I'd get to be the happiest man in, in wherever they select you.

Denis : Margaret will you marry me? (IL page 28)

Margaret Thatcher describes that women's positions in this movie are inferior toward men in their society and politics.

## 2) Women's Role



Women are not like men that can leave their house to contribute in public area. In this movie, Margaret is a woman that has opportunity to join in politics and to serve the society. She gets support from her husband, Denis Thatcher.

Margaret : No one's life must matter Denis. Beyond the cooking and cleaning the children, one's life must mean more than that. I cannot die washing up a tea cup. I mean it Denis. Say you understand.

Denis : That's why I want to marry you, my dear. (IL, page 30)

Women are mothers and wives who want to see their family happy. They really care to their children, make sure for everything their family's need. In this movie, Margaret realizes as a woman, the important thing in the world is the happiness of her husband and children.

Margaret : All I wanted was to make a difference in the world.

Denis : And you did, love, you did.

Margaret : All I wanted was for my children to grow up well and be happy .happier than I was certainly. And I wanted you to be happy of course. Were you happy, Denis? Tell me the truth. (IL, page 92)

Women's role in *Iron Lady* movie indicates that women in western culture have opportunity to involve in men's area such as political, economic and public service.

### 3) Women's Right

Women's right in this film is limited. Women do not have right to active in place that is dominated by men. Women's right is the great problem for women. Women get inequality treats, they get oppression and injustice in their right.. Margaret explains that she gets inequality treats on her career as politician in men's world.

General Haig : But Margaret will all do respect when one has been to war...

Margaret : With all due respect sir, I have done battle every single my day of my life, and many men have underestimated me before. This lot seems bound to do the same but they will rue the day. (IL page 73)

Margaret Thatcher describes the women right in this movie is form of discrimination for women based on their sexes. Women cannot contribute in public area optimally.

#### 4) Women's Participation

Women have the right to participate in any way they like, as in legal, political, economic, social, educational, etc. Sometimes even the men's ability may exceed the women. Women and men are equal in public life. They have the same rights and responsibilities in their lives. in this movie, Margaret is the only woman that is chosen as candidate for Parliament.

Grey Sui Man : Ah, Miss Robert. Hoping to be chosen as our candidate for parliament.  
Margaret : Well I don't like coalitions never have.....  
Denis : Start on the outside .....and work your way in.  
Portly Host : Attlee has his sights set on the steel industry, you mark my words  
Grey Suited Man : They'll be nationalizing the bloody air next  
Margaret : Yes, hold your breath, sir, that's government property.  
( IL, page 20)

Margaret Thatcher is a woman who dedicates her energy and mind to participate in any way they like, as in legal, political, economic, social, she actually have potential and ability to apply it.

#### b. Female Leadership

According to Diann Rodgers-Healey says that aspects of a woman's life that were thought to develop her leadership potential were their involvement at work, assistance offered by other women and their own experiences of leading others or taking charge of a situation (Dian Rodgers-Hearley, 2003). The following are some of the things which make her so forcefull.

##### 1) Work of Female Leader

Work of female leader in Iron Lady movie is described by Margaret Thatcher as the first lady prime minister of U.K. Margaret Thatcher is called Iron Lady because of her way to lead U.K. This movie arises the power of Margaret..

Margaret : I don't expect everyone just to sit there and agree with me. But what kind of leader am I if I don't try to get my own way to do what I know to be right.  
Howe : Yes. But Margaret one must be careful of testing one's colleagues' loyalty to you. (IL page 46)

Women leader is to be more empathetic and flexible, as well as stronger in interpersonal skills than their male counterparts enabling them to read situations accurately and take information in from all sides. As female leader, Margaret has power and strength more than other men around her, but as a woman she has a mother's feeling. She writes all condolence letters for the families' of 300 Argentinean sailors who died.

Margaret : The peace plan? There will be no appeasement. This is a war. A war they started and by God, we will finish. Shall I tell you what I'm going to write to every single one of these families?, I am going to tell them that no British soldier will die in vain for the Falklands.

Margaret : As the only Prime Minister in the history our country who is also a mother with son of my own, I can images your agony, and your grief. ( IL, page 76)

Women leaders are more assertive and persuasive, have a stronger need to get things done and are more willing to take risks than male leaders.

## **2) Assistance offered by other women**

Female leaders have many of the same qualities as their male colleagues, especially an ability to set high goals and inspire others to fulfill them. But women are different in some particular ways that make them valuable additions to decision making teams. Women are better at motivating others: More readily show appreciation for the efforts of others, more expressive of their thoughts and feelings, more enthusiastic (Hitec Holdings, 2000)

In this movie Margaret speeches in the front of workers in ice cream factory and in stage outside a factory else, appreciates and encourages workers to get better job and develop workplaces.

Margaret : It has to be something icy on a stick for Denis.(laughter)

Margaret : That's the only way we will produce jobs, real job, jobs that sustain.

Margaret : The Trade Union Movement was founded to protect workers. Now it persecutes them. It is killing jobs and bringing this country to its knees. I say enough. This time to get up. It's time to go work. It's time to put the Great back into Great Britain. ( IL, page 47)

Women are more expressive of their thoughts and feelings. They are more enthusiastic than men.

### 3) Women's experiences

Women at all levels learn to take responsibility for their own experience, rather than feeling wronged, victimized, or resentful. Their satisfaction and retention rise even in the absence of significant policy or culture changes. Leaders understand why lower-level women often experience the company in a completely different way than the leaders do. (Working with Power, 2012)

As the leader of the country Margaret has a responsibility to secure the sovereignty of Britain. The nation defends and the sovereign territory of the Britain is threatened. The British colony in the South Atlantic has fallen. Argentina is claimed its marines go ashore as spearhead to capture key targets, including the capital, Port Stanley. It makes Margaret release a statement directly.

Margaret : Gentleman, the Argentinean Junta which is a fascist gang has invaded our sovereign territory. Thus cannot be tolerated. May I make plain my negotiate with criminals or thugs. The Falkland Island belong to Britain, and I want them back. Gentlemen, I need you to tell me today if that possible.

Admiral Leach : Possible....just, Prime Minister. We can a task Force ready to sail in forty eight hours.

Margaret : Forty eight hours?

Admiral Leach : But....

Margaret : But ?

Admiral leach : We have narrow weather window. We can't fight in winter down here. Nobody can. If we are going, we have to go now. (IL pages 69-70)

The experience of Margaret as the long service Prime Minister in Britain and her skill to lead this country rise an inspiration to other women.

#### c. Female Leader as *Sui Generis*

According to Douglas Harper *Sui generis* is of one's own kind, peculiar. A person or thing that unique, in a class itself: she is an original meaning. (Dictionary.reference.com, 2010)

Female leader as *sui generis* describes the unique of own kind among the women should be under the men leadership, but some of them have unique

characteristic, idea, opinion, intelligence that have to be expressed, some of them are called female leader. Margaret is the only woman who is success as Prime Minister in Britain, she makes a history in western that woman can be leader of country also.

- News Reader : Its Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, a historical day for Britain, a Conservative government led by Mrs. Thatcher is set to lead
- News Reader 2 : Mrs Gandhi in India, but never in the west has there been a woman Prime Minister.
- News Reader 3 : The place that she has secure in British history, as the first woman ever to be invited to form a government ( IL, page 50)

Sui generis is person or thing that is unique in a class itself, it is an original meaning. A female leader is a unique person who can lead with her ability and competence. Margaret proves that she has the ability to lead the country.

#### **4. CONCLUSION AND PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATION**

Based on the previous analysis, the study comes to following *conclusions*. First, based on structural elements analysis, Phyllida Lloyd wants to deliver message that women and men have equal opportunity to be a leader. In delivering the message, Phyllida creates major character, Margaret Thatcher, who crosses border between men and women and dedicates her life to serve society. Margaret Thatcher is discriminated based on gender in her career as politician, but she speaks against it to achieve her goals of life and finally she can be the only woman as Prime Minister in U.K. Phyllida successfully integrates the structural elements into a good unity so that this film can be enjoyed satisfied.

The pedagogical implications for students are they can increase the English skill writing, reading, and structure. And also they can observe every characteristic of actress in dramatic movie with feminist theory. The struggle of Margaret Thatcher is proving that a woman has a power to be a leader without diversity of gender.

For teacher this research can be used as a means of teaching learning process in literature class, especially in Feminist theory. For reader, this research

can be used as reference to analyze movie using Feminist Approach. The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University who has interest with literary study on the movie for Feminist Approach. This research also can give contribution to the body of knowledge of literary study in *Iron Lady* movie.

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